

USCodex

From: foxworth@axess.com
Sent: Monday, April 19, 1999 11:39 PM
To: USCodex@dchqexs1.hqnet.usda.gov
Subject: Labelling of Genetically Altered Food

0365 '99 JUN -4 A9:41

Sensitivity: Personal

Dear Sir/Madame:

I live in Canada and understand that CODEX is to have a meeting here this upcoming week.

In light of this, I wish to make my opinion regarding the labelling of genetically engineered foods known.

I was aware that some foods in North America have been genetically engineered but thought that if they were in the market where I shop I would know what they were. When it was brought to my attention several months ago that a large portion of produce on Canadian store shelves, 31 plants including staples such as wheat, soybeans, potatoes, tomatoes and corn, are genetically altered I was utterly appalled! When you consider that these foods are also being used by food producers to make the other thousands of products on our supermarket shelves, we might as well face the fact that there is truly only a minute percentage of food in our diets that have been left in their natural state - this is ludicrous!

I speak for myself as well as on behalf of numerous personal acquaintances when I say that we are totally AGAINST genetically engineered foods of any kind. As a consumer, my faith in the purity of the food supply in Canada and the United States is shattered. I thought that we were supposed to be protected from this sort of thing. A great injustice is being committed on North American consumers - information is being hidden - non-natural foods are being misrepresented under the guise of natural food. With no labelling as to the true nature of the food, this is exactly what is happening. Only 1% of the genes between monkeys and humans are different, and yet look at how truly different we really are. We should not be taking any chances with the health of this or future generations.

My family and I refuse to eat this non-natural food on the majority of supermarket shelves and have since been buying ONLY Certified Organic fresh produce and food products. As a result, most all of the major Canadian food manufacturers have NOT been getting OUR dollars in their pockets. They should be made aware of this. I suppose I need not "get into" the scandal regarding the use of rBGH in the U.S milk supply.

To rectify the injustice, genetically altered foods MUST be labelled so that the people of the United States and Canada, we the consumers, can make the choice and our decision be made known - for it IS ultimately our decision. It will be clear that genetically altering our food is not the direction in which we wish to be going.

If there is anything to remain untouched in this time of technological advance, it is definitely the purity of our food supply. Any child would understand this. Let us NOT let Canada nor the U.S.A. begin to go down the wrong road - one on which we would not be able to turn back.

92N-0139
Thank you for your time and for taking my words into consideration.

C 5491

Sincerely,

Marcus Farhood